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Frazer OPI Team - Planning for Improvement February 22, 2011

School change is like growing a garden. The first step in quality crops is preparing the soil. The ground work takes time, but is essential in cultivating productive results.

Community Liaison News – James

DeHerrera: January has been an exciting month! I have been working closely with the MBI team. The staff members that are involved with this are making progress. We have had the MBI coaches come to Frazer to help guide the progress.

I spent some time in Billings learning about the Parent Teacher Home Visit Program. This is a program that we hope to get started in the near future. There is proof that this helps with school-home relationships. This is being done in Poplar and they could give pointers when we start. We want to send some staff to training this summer for this program. I also received some information on Solid Foundations that could tie into MBI when we start implementing. I had a chance to hear what's working in other SIG schools also.

I have been talking with Ms. Cox and Ms. Chiller on the grants they received for after-school programs. Both teachers have great programs to help the students. Ms. Cox will work with students on life skills and Ms. Chiller will work with students through poetry. They plan on starting after basketball is over. I traveled to Helena to attend a MACIE (Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education) board meeting. All community liaisons attended. We were able to meet all the board members before hearing information on the Montana Digital Academy which is used by some of our students at Frazer. I informed the board of the progress here at Frazer. State Superintendent Denise Juneau came for part of the meeting and gave a brief explanation on legislative issues in the new session.

As spring is around the corner, I look forward to creating new and valuable programs for Frazer and the community!

School Board Involvement --- LaRae

Crowley: The past month has been a snowy

cold one for our district with lots of cancellations due to weather. The board retreat in Wolf Point the end of January was cancelled. This was to be a goal-setting time so we will work to ensure these are in place as the year progresses. I have been reviewing updated board policies from MTSBA. I hope to get this on the schedule for the next meeting so these required policies are current within our district. Updates from the legislature are coming on a daily basis and I am encouraging our board to use the MTSBA Web site for more information. February is I Love to Read Month so I am encouraging all of us to do our part and keep ourselves reading as examples to the young people in our lives.

Transformation News--- Jen Cunningham:

CRT Testing preparation is in full swing. Testing for math and reading will be March 7, 9, and 10 with two tests occurring each day in the morning. On March 15, grades 4, 8, and 10 will receive two science tests in the morning. On March 16, the same groups will receive one test. Training for staff will occur on February 24 to assist in preparing students with testing format and test-taking procedures. All make-up tests will be in the afternoon on testing and non-testing days with all testing completed by March 16. Proctors will be provided by the OPI to oversee testing procedures.

An independent evaluator has been hired and evaluations for certified staff will commence March 1. My role is to support administration with establishing a detailed schedule outlining pre-observation conference times, classroom observation times, etc. SOPPAS manuals have been distributed to all certified staff, along with a summative evaluation example and teacher goal form. Training for teachers occurred on January 17 during morning collaboration. An additional training is scheduled for February 17 to further prepare teachers for the process.

Instructional News – Carolyn Rusche: I continue to offer and provide support to all teachers focusing on communication arts and math teachers.

Communication Arts: I attended several meetings with communication arts teachers to assess the students' progress and placement in the correct program.

- Frances Bessellieu, Side by Side consultant, was in Frazer on February 10 and will be again on March 2 to provide additional support for teachers. Coaching will continue throughout the year.

Math: I reviewed quarterly assessments and cognitive tutor implementation with the math teacher.

- Algebraic Thinking trainer/coach, Roy Shelton, Jr. was able to visit Frazer on January 10 and 11 to offer coaching and support. He was not able to visit again on January 31 due to bad weather; however he did remote coaching with the junior high math teacher. Coaching will continue throughout the year.

Activities:

- I attended Frazer site meetings with Courtney Peterson, Nancy Coleman, Mandy Smoker Broadus, and Donnie Wetzel.
- Attended meetings with the superintendent, transformational leader (TL), community liaison (CL) and school board coach.
- I met with MBI representatives Kevin Murphy and Greg Thurlow on January 11.
- I attended the technology committee meeting on January 28.
- I attended three MBI committee meetings and one finance conference call.
- I attended the SIG team meeting and SIG training in Billings.

The next steps for curriculum and instructional improvement: I will provide copies of CRT-released items for all teachers and continue to monitor student progress.

From the Helena Office -- Nancy Coleman, SIG Unit Director:

District Leadership Team (DLT) – The DLT is the SIG district-formed team. This team is made up of representatives of all stakeholders in the district. Their goal is to work on school improvement initiatives and determine through local action where to put resources to work. The action plan details that are collaboratively developed at the meeting which outline the use of SIG funding should be fully supported by the administration and the board of the district.

Grant Requirements for February & March:

For the board's information we are providing a listing of things that need to be accomplished at various levels. Much of the work is a continuation from the previous month.

For the On-site OPI Employees:

- Support the use of the CRT released items in classes for the state test in March;
- Continue to provide planning for the implementation of the District Action Plan (DAP);
- Continue work with SIG District Leadership Team (DLT) to establish District Action Plans details;
- Continue to assist with organizing the collaborative Professional Learning Communities (PLCs);
- Continue to support actions steps within the Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI);
- Continue to schedule external professional development providers; and
- Continue to provide job-embedded professional development through training and coaching for all staff.

For the Principal:

- Continue to attend School Improvement Team meeting(s); coordinate professional development of the PLCs;
- Begin planning the Assessment protocols for CRT testing coming up in March;
- Continue to lead, along with the MBI facilitator, action steps within the MBI;

- Begin getting a plan in place to accommodate the 3rd party evaluator using the SOPPAS (Schools of Promise Performance Assessment System) and provide support and feedback to teachers on effective instruction;
- Begin the work with SIG DLT to establish District Action Plan details;
- Continue to monitor a system to determine 'at risk' students based on – attendance, past class grades, discipline, support systems for success (student information system); and
- Put a plan in place that will accurately gather the required reporting data for grant compliance.

For the District/Superintendent:

- Begin the evaluation process for principals through the SOPPAS process;
- Continue to support the implementation of the DAP through resources, etc.; and
- Continue to participate in the finance calls that are provided by the OPI once a month.

For Teachers:

- Actively participate in collaborative PLCs;
- Continue to plan and implement lesson plans that include standards alignment with ongoing assessments;
- Continue to implement the programs for communication arts and mathematics with fidelity;
- Continue to actively participate in school improvement teams which you are involved with;
- Begin to use the released items for the state required test (MontCas); and
- Start the evaluation process with 3rd party evaluators.

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Statewide Youth and Community

Outreach – *Don Wetzel, Jr.*: This month has been very progressive in our youth and community outreach. We have begun to work with the tribal governments and tribal programs

to work together on some of the issues in the schools. Funding has been a big topic and we are working with many programs trying to share resources to develop incentive programs for the youth. We have also started to speak directly to the students by engaging them to identify the solutions on attendance and grade improvement. We have some of the most talented students walking our halls and they have many of the answers we seek. Some youth want to push an incentive-driven student lounge with snacks and games that they could buy from fundraising. They want to develop after-school programs and clubs such as rodeo, drama, and break-dancing to name a few. They are interested in making things more interesting, such as pep assemblies and open gym. There truly is nothing better than to see a student's eyes light up when they feel empowered.

Our Community Liaisons are working with them to put words into actions. We are encouraging the schools to look at a process for recognizing students, teachers and staff in appreciation for the work they are doing. Mutual respect is so important in making this all work and that is why we want to bring in Elders to speak at the schools and share their wisdom and stories. Many ideas are coming out of this with the main focus being on identity. Our Community Liaisons will be implementing the Home Visiting Project for the remainder of the year as well. This project will benefit the relationships between the school and the parents. If you are interested in what this is, visit with your Community Liaison and they can show the video of how this has worked around the country. We have started community feeds too to get better acquainted with teachers, parents, and staff. We are helping the youth get ready for college by sitting down and helping them with paperwork or even giving them a ride to take their ACT or SAT.

We appreciate the opportunities that are given to us every day with the community, staff and students and hope to continue to grow and

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progress in a good way to better the futures of our children and communities.

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SIG Field Consultant News -- Courtney

Peterson:

- Instructional Leader communications including weekly calls and monthly meetings
- Research upcoming indicator topics such as science implementation, advisory, and summer institutes
- Coordinate program-specific professional development and external consultants
- Assist with district action planning guidance and templates
- Facilitate teaming activity at January 14 SIG meeting
- Support and assist with implementation of general SIG efforts
- Site Visit January 5 - Canceled due to illness
- Site Visit January 27

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SIG School Advocate News – Sarah

Pierce: I am beginning the process of searching the best science programs for our districts to adopt for the 2011-2012 school year. I am enlisting the assistance of teachers and students to find a program that will challenge and support our students in this area of study.

Another area of focus is training teachers in Differentiated Instruction to reach and teach a variety of student learners. I am also focused on supporting teachers and students in trauma. Teachers will receive support in teaching students going through traumatic events and also how to support themselves to be a well-balanced teacher.

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